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# CONSTITUTION

OF THE

UNITED

# ..Mine Workers..

OF ILLINOIS.

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...adopted at...

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS,

March 8th, 1899.



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# CONSTITUTION.

## ARTICLE I.

### NAME, OBJECT AND JURISDICTION.

SECTION 1. This organization shall be known as the 12th District of the United Mine Workers of America.

SEC. 2. The objects of this Union are to unite mine employes and ameliorate their condition by methods of conciliation, arbitration or strikes.

SEC. 3. This District shall have jurisdiction over all Local Unions in Illinois, which shall be governed in all trade matters by this Constitution.

## ARTICLE II.

### OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The officers of this District shall be one President, one Vice President, one Secretary-Treasurer and seven Executive members, one from each inspection District, who shall constitute the Executive Board; also a Board of Auditors, who shall be elected by the popular vote of the District.

## ARTICLE III.

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The President shall preside at all conventions of the District. He shall sign

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all official documents when satisfied of their correctness, and with the consent of the Executive Board he shall fill by appointment all vacancies occurring in the offices, and in like manner he is empowered to suspend or remove any District officer for insubordination or just and sufficient cause, and with the consent of the Executive Board appoint from time to time such organizers and workers as, in his opinion, may be required to serve the best interests of the organization. He shall devote his time and attention to the interest of the District, and shall exercise general supervision of its workings, either in the field or the District office, as his judgment dictates.

#### DUTIES OF VICE PRESIDENT.

SEC. 2. The Vice President shall act as general organizer, and shall be under the direction of the President, and in his absence shall assume all the duties and responsibilities of that office, and shall succeed to that office in case of death or removal of the President.

#### DUTIES OF SECRETARY-TREASURER.

SEC. 3. The Secretary-Treasurer shall have charge of and preserve all books and documents and the effects of the District office; he shall record proceedings of all conventions and of the meetings of the Executive Board. And shall keep copies of all important letters sent out by him and shall prepare and submit to the

United Mine Workers Journal a quarterly report of all moneys received and disbursements, and perform such other duties as may be assigned him by the President or Executive Board. He shall give a bond of \$10,000 and shall not have in his possession at any time more than \$5,000. All moneys over and above that amount shall be deposited in a safe bank in the name of the Executive Board, and shall not be drawn upon without the consent of the Executive Board. He shall semi-annually send to all Sub-District Secretaries the pass word, whose duty it shall be to transmit it to all the Locals that may be in good standing and where no sub-district exists to local Secretaries.

#### DUTIES OF DISTRICT EXECUTIVE BOARD.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board, when convened by the President, to pass upon and decide all grievances, and their decision shall be final in such matters until reversed by the District Convention. And it shall be their duty to draw upon and use the strike fund of this district, when in their opinion the best interest of the district demands its use. Said strike fund shall be sacred for the purpose of strikes only.

#### DUTIES OF AUDITING COMMITTEE.

SEC. 5. The Auditing Committee shall meet semi-annually. They shall carefully inspect and audit the books and accounts pertaining to

the Secretary-Treasurer's office and shall make a circular report of their findings to the Locals of the district. They shall meet one week prior to the Annual Convention, and make their report prior to the ratification of election of officers.

SEC. 6. It shall be the duty of the Auditing Committee to count all ballots, and certify to the correctness of the circular issued by the Secretary, announcing the election of officers of this district. Said decision to be ratified by the convention while in executive session.

#### ARTICLE IV.

##### REVENUE.

SECTION 1. The revenues of this district shall be derived from the Local Unions, viz: Ten cents per month per capita, fractional members per ratio. The funds shall be used to pay District Organizers and the cost of securing better legislation, for the benefit of the miners. The strike fund shall be created by the District Board assessing such per cent as in their opinion may be necessary for the welfare of the district.

#### ARTICLE VI.

##### CONVENTIONS.

SECTION 1. The District Convention shall be held annually, commencing on the second Tuesday in February, at such place as may be determined upon by the preceding Convention, providing, however, that if in the opinion of the

President any question of sufficient magnitude shall arise before or in the Convention of the national body, which would demand the calling of a State Convention, he is hereby authorized to postpone the State Convention and call it after the National Convention. Special conventions may be called by the District President, acting under the advice and with the consent of the Executive Board.

## ARTICLE VII.

### STRIKES.

SECTION I. When trouble of a local character arises between the members of any Local Union and their employers, the Pit Committee and officers shall endeavor to effect an amicable adjustment, and failing, they shall immediately notify the officers of the Sub-District, and said Sub-District officers shall immediately investigate the cause of complaint, and failing to effect a peaceable settlement upon a basis that would be equitable and just to the aggrieved members, finding that a strike would best subserve the interests of the locality affected, they may, with the consent and approval of the District officers, order such a strike. Any Local Union striking in violation of the above provisions will not be recognized or sustained by State officers. Before final action is taken by any District upon questions that directly or indirectly affect the interest of mine workers of

another district or may require a strike to determine, the President and Secretary of the aggrieved district shall jointly prepare, sign and forward to the National President a written statement setting forth the grievance complained of, the action contemplated by district, together with the reasons therefor, and shall await the decision and direction of the National President and be governed thereby.

SEC. 2. Should the action contemplated by the aggrieved District receive the approval of the National President, the District shall act, but should the National President disapprove of the action contemplated the District may appeal to the National Executive Board which shall be convened to consider such appeals within five days after its receipt by the National Secretary. Until the National President or the National Executive Board has sustained an appeal this District is not free to enter upon a strike unless it shall have been ordered by the National Convention.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### PENALTIES.

SECTION I. Any Local Union under the jurisdiction of this District who shall refuse to pay the levies authorized by the Executive Board to maintain a legalized strike shall be suspended by the District officers until such levy is paid. No Local being allowed to be in arrears more than one month.

## ARTICLE IX.

## SALARIES.

SECTION I. The salaries of the officers shall be fixed at each annual Convention.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Election of Members of the State Executive Board—Members of the State Executive Board shall be elected by the popular vote of each inspection District in which they reside.

The President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, seven members of the State Executive Board and three Auditors shall be elected, as follows:

Sixty days prior to the Annual Election, the Secretary shall send out nomination blanks to all Locals in the District. The respective Locals shall fill out in their respective places the names of candidates of their choice for above named positions.

Thirty days prior to the date set for convention the Secretary shall notify all candidates of their nomination and get their written consent that they are candidates for the respective places as indicated by said nominations.

No nominee will be considered a candidate without such written consent. Twenty days prior to the convention the Secretary shall send names of all certified nominees to all Locals who shall vote for said candidates on ballots prepared for the purpose and send sealed returns

to State Secretary, said returns to be in Secretary's hands six days prior to date set for Convention.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Auditors to canvass said vote and report returns to State Convention on returning sheets prepared for the purpose.

The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected to the respective places above mentioned.

In case of a tie vote the same shall be settled by the Convention then assembled. Delegates casting by ballot, the number of votes on which their Locals pay per capita tax, said vote to be determined by the number of members in the respective Locals, December 15th, prior to Convention.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Each Local in the District shall have a day each month to be known throughout this District as card day.

2. Boys from 14 to 17 shall be given one half turn, after which they shall be entitled to a full turn, excepting boys 17 years of age having never worked in the mine. They must serve a term of six months before receiving a full turn.

3. That a uniform price of initiation fee shall prevail throughout the entire State. Said price shall be for all miners at present employed in the mines and not in the organization, five dol-

lars. For all inexperienced men entering any mine to work, twenty dollars. For boys (other than miners' sons) entering the mines between the ages of 14 and 17 years, two dollars and fifty cents. All miners' sons at the age of 14 shall enter said mines free of charge.

4. All Secretaries, issuing transfer cards, must state on the face of card the occupation of the party to whom said card was issued.

5. A member leaving a Sub-District and securing work in another, must take his withdrawal card to a Local in the Sub-District he gets work in. But he shall pay assessments and shaft expenses at the shaft wherein he works.

6. Any member charged with having abused the use of our pass word or in any way divulged the actions of his or any other Local, contrary to this Constitution, if proven guilty, shall for the first offense be fined \$2.00, for the second offense \$5.00 and for the third offense be expelled.

7. Any member of the United Mine Workers of America, leaving the mines for other vocations in life, must pay to the Local all dues and assessments and levys created by the Local, Sub-District, State or National Organization, in order to retain his menbership in said organization.

8. Such rules and regulations or by laws for the government of this district that are not

herein provided, the Executive Board shall have power from time to time to draft such laws as may be required; *Provided*, that such shall not conflict with the laws adopted by this Constitution.

JAMES ROURK,  
JOHN SCHULTZ,  
JAMES BURNS, JR.,  
GEO. PADGETT,

CHAS. W. HICKS, *Secretary*,  
Committee on Constitution.

Attest: W. D. RYAN, *Secretary*.

